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FATIMA APPARITIONS' SOLE
SURVIVOR REJECTS RECENT
PROPHECIES IMPUTED TO HER

7/13/59 - Th.

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

COIMBRA, Portugal, July 9--The sole survivor of the 1917 Fatima apparitions has rejected as "inexact" and "regrettable" recent predictions attributed to her.

The rejection of these so-called prophecies was made by Sister Lucia, now a Carmelite nun in Coimbra, through a formal statement issued by the chancery office of the Coimbra diocese.

(The prophecies were allegedly made to Father Augustin Fuentes of Veracruz, Mexico, in an interview he had with Sister Lucy in December, 1957. Wide circulation has been given to the priest's report of the interview.

(In that report Sister Lucy was quoted as having said that "God is going to chastize the world...1960 is not far off, and what will happen then will be a very sad thing for all...if before then the world does not offer prayer and penance."

(Father Fuentes has been called the "Roman postulator" of the beatification causes of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, now deceased, who with their cousin, Sister Lucy, witnessed the 1917 apparitions at Fatima. But the Rome bureau of the N.C.W.C. News Service was informed by an official of the Sacred Congregation of Rites that there is no Roman postulator for the cause of the two Fatima children, and that there is no such cause before the Congregation. Further investigation by the N.C.W.C. News Service disclosed that Father Fuentes is not the postulator for Portugal for the causes of Francisco and Jacinta. The postulator there is Auxiliary Bishop Manuel de Jesus Pereira of Coimbra.)

The chancery office of the Coimbra diocese said Sister Lucy gave the following answer to questions put to her by the diocesan authorities:

(MORE) PT/VEP/CEHR/ASL/A/C/103/178

"Father Fuentes spoke to me, as he is the postulator for the beatification causes of the servants of God Jacinta and Francisco Marto. We dealt only with things related to this point, so that everything else to which he refers is inexact or untrue, which is regrettable I do not understand what good can come to souls by things which are not founded on God, who is the Truth.

"I know nothing nor can I say anything about such chastisements, which have been falsely attributed to me."

The chancery statement also said that since February, 1955, Sister Lucia has said nothing about the Fatima apparitions, and thus has not authorized anyone to make public anything on this subject.

A Voz (The Voice), Catholic daily newspaper in Lisbon, which had published a story on Father Fuentes, report of his interview with Sister Lucy, said it regretted giving its readers cause for alarm. The newspaper stressed that the message of Fatima gives cause for hope.

The story of the Fatima apparitions is as follows:

The Blessed Virgin appeared six times in 1917 to Lucia Abobora and Francisco and Jacinta Marto, three children who herded sheep in the fields near Fatima and Aljustrel. She gave them three secrets.

In 1927 Sister Lucia was allowed to reveal the first two:

--The children were given a terrifying vision of hell.

--The Blessed Virgin gave them a mandate to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and she prophesied the punishment to be meted out to mankind if her mandate were not fulfilled.

The punishment she foretold was that Russia would spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecuting the Church; the good would be martyred; the Holy Father would have much to suffer; and various nations would be annihilated.

When Sister Lucia was seriously ill in 1939, she said she obtained permission from the Blessed Virgin to write out the third secret and to seal it in an envelope marked "Not to be opened until 1960."

The third secret has been a subject of speculation since that time, some of it resulting in false reports. In 1956 Sister Lucia denied saying that 95 per cent of humanity would perish in a world war, that England and Russia would offer most, and that Lisbon would be destroyed.

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C O R R E C T I O N

7/13/59 - F.

In story datelined COIMBRA, Portugal, and headed FATIMA APPARITIONS' SOLE SURVIVOR REJECTS, etc., sent you on page 1 of Thursday's foreign service, CORRECT the following:

In seventh paragraph beginning, "Father Fuentes spoke to me, etc., INSERT a period after world regrettable, making a new sentence beginning, I do not understand what good, etc.

(CORRECT 10th paragraph to read:)

A Voz (The Voice), Catholic daily newspaper in Lisbon, which had published a story on Father Fuentes' report of his interview, etc. (making comma an apostrophe).

(In 18th (final) paragraph beginning, The third secret, etc., CORRECT second sentence to read:)

In 1956 Sister Lucia denied saying that 95 per cent of humanity would perish in a world war, that England and Russia would suffer most, etc. (Not offer.)

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PARAGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER
PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO POPE

7/13/59 - F.

VATICAN CITY, July 10 (Radio, NC)--Paraguay's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Raul Sapena Pastor, was received here with the honors of the papal court when he made an official visit to His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

After visiting with the Pope privately, Mr. Pastor presented his wife and members of his official party. Later he visited His Eminence Domenico Cardinal Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, then went to St. Peter's basilica, where he prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

Cardinal Tardini, according to protocol, visited the Foreign Minister's residence. Pope John sent his special paternal blessing to the people of Paraguay.

The Pope also received in private audience Adm. Felipe Jose Abarzuza y Oliva, Spain's Minister of the Navy, and his wife.

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NCWC NEWS SERVICE

E D I T O R I A L I N F O R M A T I O N

August 15, 1959

EDITORS: Following is the full text of a statement by the Diocesan Chancery of Coimbra, which quotes Sister Lucy, sole survivor of the 1917 Fatima apparitions, as denying as "inexact" and "regrettable" recent predictions attributed to her.

A story on the statement, datelined COIMBRA, Portugal, and headed FATIMA APPARITIONS' SOLE SURVIVOR REJECTS RECENT PROPHECIES IMPUTED TO HER, was sent to you on page one of Thursday's foreign service for the week of 7/13/59.

N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE

Father Augustin Fuentes, postulator of the beatification cause of the Fatima seers, Francisco and Jacinta, visited Sister Lucy in the Carmel of Coimbra and spoke with her exclusively about matters relating to the process. After returning to Mexico, his country (if we are to credit what A Voz said on June 22 and repeated on July 1 in a translation of MC de Braganca), he made fantastic statements of an apocalyptical, eschatological and prophetical nature which he declared he had heard from Sister Lucy herself.

Owing to the gravity of these statements, the diocesan chancery of Coimbra considered it its duty to make a rigorous inquiry into the authenticity of what persons, given to extravagant speculation, have been spreading in Mexico, the United States, Spain and finally Portugal.

To reassure the many who, having read the articles published in A Voz, were alarmed and horrified by the cataclysms which, according to these articles, would fall upon the world in 1960, and above all to end this tendentious campaign of "prophecy," whose perpetrators, perhaps unwittingly, are bringing ridicule upon themselves and upon those things actually mentioned by Sister Lucy, the diocesan chancery of Coimbra now makes public the following statement by Sister Lucy in answer to questions put to her by those who have the authority to do so:

"Father Fuentes spoke to me, as he is the postulator for the beatification causes of the servants of God Jacinta and Francisco Marto. We dealt only with things related to this point, so that everything else to which he refers is inexact or untrue, which is regrettable. I do not understand what good can come to souls by things which are not founded on God, who is the Truth.

"I know nothing nor can I say anything about such chastisements, which have been falsely attributed to me.

The diocesan chancery of Coimbra is in a position to declare that Sister Lucy has already said all that she thought proper to divulge about Fatima and which can be found in various books on Fatima. At least since February 1955 until now, she has said nothing and thus no one is authorized to publish any statement which may be attributed to her concerning Fatima.

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